



State Rehabilitation Council

Nebraska Department of Education
301 Centennial Mall South • PO Box 94987 • Lincoln, NE 68509

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting Country Inn & Suites October 14, 2008

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under "conferences & meetings" at least 5 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mitch Arnold, Katie Durfee, Alvin Fox, Sue Gieschen, Gayle Hahn, Jason Kerkman, Les Kimmons, Frank Lloyd, Larry Niemeyer, Vicky Obrecht, Deb Osentowski, Kipp Ransom, Vicki Rasmussen, Angela Smith, Terry Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Kolb, Pearl Van Zandt

VR STAFF PRESENT: Don Crouch, Kelli Funk, Alan Wheat, Sarah Chapin, Mark Schultz, Mark Mason, Jack Shepard

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:00 a.m. Public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Gieschen shared that with the help of VR he currently has two jobs; ESU 16 and Kelly Bean. He thanked the Council for their support. He brought with him a Shaq O'Neill, size 20 shoe from 1992-93.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gayle Hahn called the meeting to order. Don Crouch shared that the Fall Vocational Rehabilitation Conference will be held Oct. 28-29 at the Kearney Holiday Inn. The conference brochure and registration were distributed. The Annual Report is currently being developed.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Alvin Fox moved and Sue Gieschen seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 12, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

Alvin Fox moved and Deb Osentowski seconded a motion to approve the August 12, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR SERVICES

Jason Kerkman shared that he has heard some concern about the Lincoln VR Office move. Part of that concern is about the bus route and stops. It was shared that VR will have a bigger presence at the One Stop downtown so if they choose, clients won't have to make the trip to 27th street.

REVIEW OF VR STATISTICS

Don Crouch shared that final statistics from the end of the quarter are not yet available. He was able to share that all of the Standards have been met.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Consumer Satisfaction Survey Pamphlets

Frank Lloyd reported that the electronic surveys are complete and should be offered at the VR offices when consumers visit. In the field, it can be filled out on paper and mailed back. Vicki Rasmussen will hand enter these surveys on behalf of the SRC. As was discussed at the previous SRC meeting, both the Plan Completion survey and the Job Search Strategy have an additional question about the promptness of phone calls being returned.

Goal Alignment Process

The nine statewide goals were approved by the Board of Education and the Federal Rehab Services Administration. Plans from 13 statewide offices were submitted with activities they can do to support the nine goals. Activities reported were summarized in the Goal Alignment brochure that was developed. A copy was distributed.

ELECTRONIC SURVEYS

Kelly Funk and Alan Wheat were present to demonstrate the electronic survey process. Sign language interpreters are an optional component of the survey. The current survey will be used for one year. At that point additional questions or other changes can be considered.

JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES

Mark Mason was introduced from the Lincoln VR office. Mark is working with youth to age 19 who are in the Juvenile Justice System to teach them job searching skills. Many of the kids he sees are not in school and he is able to link them to GED programs. Disabilities are addressed as to how they apply to employment. Mark's goal is to reach the kids earlier in the system to avoid continued problems. So far, he has received 67 referrals. Of those, 38 have decided to work with VR and 12 are currently employed. Kids have difficulty thinking about the future. They want the quick buck.

VRIS AND SRC WEB SITES

Sarah Chapin from the VR office shared the Voc Rehab Information System (VRIS) website that has been revised for internal VR use. In addition, she showed the new SRC web page that is under development. She asked the Council to review the site to determine if there is additional content that the SRC would like to have added. Member names, addresses and phone numbers are currently posted. Any information that members do not want posted can be removed by Sheri Nitzsche, sherlyn.nitzsche@vr.ne.gov. The Client Services Committee will review the site and make recommendations for changes.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Jack Shepard shared that Kristi Berst has been working across the state on laying the ground work for the Youth Leadership Council. Approximately 10 kids have already been recommended for the Council and there has been great interest. Application forms will be developed. Jack and Kristi would like to have a SRC member sit on the selection committee. The Council will be a standing

committee of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) and could also be tied to the SRC. Alvin Fox moved that the Youth Leadership Council become a standing committee of the SRC. Terry Wilson seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

FUTURE OFFICES

Mark Schultz shared the floor plan for the new Lincoln VR office space on North 27th. Both Voc Rehab and ATP will man the reception area. A Unisex bathroom was recommended for those who need assistance. A sheltered bus stop will be constructed out front of the building. A group of staff worked with the design and all staff were given a chance to provide input. The Kearney space is similar in that staff will have cubicles and there is drop-in space.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Don Crouch discussed meeting dates. The bylaws indicate that a minimum of four meetings shall be held each year. Mitch Arnold moved and Jason Kerkman seconded a motion that the meetings for the coming year be reduced from six to five. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

It was suggested that the February meeting be eliminated but the date saved as an alternate meeting date in case of cancelation due to weather. Meeting dates for the coming year will be December 9, 2008; alternate date: February 10, 2009; April 14, 2009; June 9, 2009; August 11, 2009; October 13, 2009; and December 8, 2009.

CAP REPORT

Vicki Rasmussen provided a CAP report in the meeting packet. Clarification was made on some of the points.

SILC REPORT

Tim Kolb provided a written NESILC report.

ATP REPORT

Angela Smith shared an Assistive Technology success story. A man with a back injury was opening his own business making saddles. Assistive technology was able to help him by purchasing a task chair so that he could do his work without bending. A transition student was assisted with his learning disability by the purchase of scanner software that reads instructional material out loud that he could use in college as he did in high school.

CLIENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

- Kipp Ransom shared that the sign language work done on the electronic survey is complete and was a success.
- In the past six years the number of students sent to UNL by VR was: 59, 49, 44, 43, 48, and 46. This seems to be a stable number of students. The Committee is looking for data on two-year colleges.
- Vicki Rasmussen spoke about the SRC website. Any comments that members want to make can be sent to Vicki by November 10. The Committee will look at the videos that are posted. They will ask that the current chair be the contact for the Council. Minutes and Annual Reports will be posted for the past seven years. Under the membership link they will remove all contact information and only show names. Member photos can be put on the web page under membership as well. It was suggested that an In The News section could be a good addition.

EMPLOYER SERVICES COMMITTEE

- Jason Kerkman reported that this month the Employer Awards will be or have been presented. A suggestion was made that an effort should be made to increase the profile next year so that the public is aware. Two suggestions were to present the awards at the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities and the Chamber of Commerce meetings. Media could be contacted for coverage.

TRANSITION SERVICES COMMITTEE

- Angela Smith shared that Alvin Fox will represent the SRC for the Youth Council application review.
- It continues to be a challenge to get more graduates into the VR program. The transition consent form has been revised to include consent to enter adult program services.
- An IPE booklet is being developed for transition students and will be finalized by the first of the year.
- Statewide, VR Staff is being interviewed to record best practices and successful group activities to share with new staff as they are hired.

OTHER

Erin Riley from a Minnesota hospital has been hiring severely disabled individuals for various key job positions at the hospital. She has been sharing their success across the country. Jim Coyle is making arrangements for her to work directly with Nebraska hospitals.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.